

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting one protocol from among a plurality of protocols to establish one or more communication sessions between a first computer and a second computer, where the first computer has an object and the second computer has an object-handle associated with the object, and where the object-handle identifies the plurality of protocols, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a. defining a plurality of ranges so that each of the ranges represents a priority rule;
  - b. determining the priority rule that applies to each of the plurality of protocols respectively identified in the object-handle based on a configuration for the second computer;
  - c. upon invocation of the object handle for each of said one or more communication sessions, generating bids having bid values for ~~each of~~ one or more protocols among the plurality of protocols identified by the object-handle, wherein each of the bid values is in one of the ranges that represents the priority rule;
  - d. dynamically arranging the bid values in a sequence corresponding to their relative values so as to indicate a relative preference among ~~each of~~ the plurality of protocols for each of said one or more communication sessions; and
  - e. parsing the arranged bid values to select a highest protocol that is the highest preference according to the sequence and is effective in establishing each of said one or more communication sessions.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the generating step further comprises the steps of:

- a. for each of the one or more protocols among the plurality of protocols, determining whether the one or more protocols qualifies according to the configuration; and
  - b. when the one or more protocols qualifies, setting a bid value for the one or more protocols according to the configuration.
3. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the configuration includes a default value associated with each of the one or more protocols, and the generating step further comprises the step of setting the bid value for each of the one or more protocols equal to the default value on the condition that no other bid value for each of the one or more protocols is determined.
4. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the configuration includes at least one property relating to the one or more protocols among the plurality of protocols, wherein the at least one property has an enabled and disabled state, and wherein the at least one property is associated with a bid range, the method further comprising the steps of:
  - a. referencing the at least one property; and
  - b. setting a bid value for the one or more protocols relating to the at least one property equal to a value within the bid range associated with the at least one property when the at least one property is in the enabled state.
5. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 4, further comprising the step of setting the at least one property to the enabled or the disabled state based on signals from a user operating the second computer.
6. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the arranging step further comprises a step of determining that one of the bid values with a lowest value is the most preferred and one of the bid values with a highest value is the least preferred.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the sequence of the bid values is ascending order.
8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the generating step further comprises the steps of:
  - a. referencing a predefined configuration that is associated with the second computer; and
  - b. setting a bid equal to a value within one of a plurality of prescribed ranges according to predefined rules in the configuration.
9. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 8, wherein the configuration includes a priority list, and the generating step further comprising the step of adjusting the bid values within a single range according to the priority list specified in the configuration.
10. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 8, wherein the parsing step further comprises the step of determining one or more conditions associated with the plurality of prescribed ranges such that the bid values within each of the plurality prescribed ranges are parsed when the associated conditions are satisfied.
11. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 10, wherein the ranges include an exclusivity range with an associated condition that if there is at least one bid value within the exclusivity range, the bid values within ranges having lower preference than exclusivity range are not parsed.
12. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 10, wherein the ranges include a critical range with an associated condition such that the bid values within the critical range are parsed before the bid values in the ranges other than the critical range are parsed.

Claims 13-20: (Cancelled)